



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Inventor(s) : Shoji HAYAKAWA
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Application No. : 10/552,619
:
Filed : August 31, 2006
:
For : PIPE CONNECTING STRUCTURE
:
Examiner : James M. Hewitt
:
Group Art Unit : 3679
:
Atty. Docket No. : VX052694 PCT

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 6, 2007

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks in response to the Official action mailed on August 9, 2007. The Official action set forth a three-month period for response, and a petition for a one-month extension of time is attached hereto, making this response due on or before December 9, 2007. Since December 9, 2007, was a Sunday, the filing of this response on the next business day, namely, Monday, December 10, 2007 is timely.

Specification Amendments begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 5 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and include three attached replacement sheets.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.